IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-6 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 7-9 as follows:

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) An information playback method as defined in claim 8 ~~for reading out information by irradiating an optical spot on an information recording medium having a plurality of tracks, said method comprising the steps of:~~

~~irradiating said optical spot simultaneously on a first track and a second track adjacent to said first track, among said plurality of tracks; and~~

wherein the maintaining step maintains the [[an]] orthogonal relation ~~with a depth of a recorded mark recorded on said first track and a depth of a recorded mark recorded on said second track,~~ when simultaneously converting both the recorded marks to electric signals thereby direct adding the signals to read out information therefrom, and

wherein the depth of the recorded mark recorded on said first track is different from the depth of the recorded mark recorded on said second track.

8. (Currently Amended) An information playback method for reading out information ~~as defined in claim 7~~ by irradiating an optical spot on an information recording medium having a plurality of tracks, said method comprising the steps of:

irradiating said optical spot simultaneously on a first track and a second track adjacent to said first track, among said plurality of tracks; and

maintaining an orthogonal relation with a depth of a recorded mark recorded on said first track and a depth of a recorded mark recorded on said second track, when both the recorded marks are converted to electric signals,

wherein when a readout signal from said first track is S1 and a readout signal from said second track is S2, frequencies of carrier waves of said S1 and said S2 are equal frequency but both phases are deviated by 90 degrees from each other, information bits "1" and "0" of said S1 are deviated by 180 degrees in phases, and information bits "1" and "0" of said S2 are deviated by 180 degrees in phases.

9. (Previously Presented) An information playback method as defined in claim 8, wherein bit pattern positions of said first and second tracks are deviate by T/4, where T is a length on said track corresponding to a cycle of said carrier wave.